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Contact: Jim Grebing at 573/751-9065 or
Bill Niblack at 573/751-3595

Missouri Department of
Economic Development
P.O. Box 1157
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-1157
www.missouridevelopment.org

Missouri Labor Market Conditions Remained Sluggish in October

According to the Missouri Department of Economic Development, the state's unemployment rate dipped a tenth of a point to 4.5 percent and non-farm payroll employment grew at a much slower pace than normal in October.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up slightly by a tenth of a point to 4.9 percent in October. Both the adjusted and unadjusted rates are the same as they were in October 2001. Missouri's unemployment remains well below the nation's October unemployment rate of 5.7 percent.

Non-farm payrolls added a net 8,200 jobs in October. Stronger growth is, however, the norm for the month, so the seasonally adjusted estimate decreased by 6,300 jobs, to 2,672,100. Typically, the lowest unemployment rates in the year occur in spring and fall months.

Manufacturing has continued to be a focus of job loss, with seasonally adjusted employment decreasing by 2,800 jobs spread across most of the industry's sectors in October. Seasonally adjusted construction employment was down by 2,300, mostly contractors in special trades.

The private service-producing industries were relatively stable between September and October. However, wholesale trade of non-durable goods lost 1,300 jobs (5,000 over the past year) and retail trade employment was down by 1,000 jobs.

Service industry employment was down by 1,700 jobs, seasonally adjusted, primarily the result of a drop in private educational services. However, the service industry employment level is the same as it was in October 2001, at 53,100 jobs. Business services rebounded from the loss in September, adding 2,200 jobs.

Government employment was up by 1,900 jobs; 1,300 in local government and 600 in the federal sector as airport security hiring continues.

Over the past year, non-farm payrolls have lost 39,400 jobs (1.4 percent), not seasonally adjusted. Manufacturing employment is down by 8,400 jobs (2.3 percent), with the largest losses in electrical and electronic equipment (3,600); lumber and wood products (2,600); food (1,900); and chemicals (1,300). Over-the-year job losses in the manufacturing sector would have been even more extensive had it not been for an October 2001 short-term layoff of 4,000 motor vehicle assemblers for inventory adjustment.

Construction employment was down by 8,600 jobs (5.9 percent). The communications industry lost 2,300 jobs, securities and insurance broker employment were down 3,000 jobs and business services employment was down by 7,700 or 5 percent. Air transportation was down by 1,300, partially due to the transfer of security workers to federal employment.

Over-the-year employment increases were reported in a few industries. Health services added 2,000 jobs, and government employment was up by 2,300, as gains in local government have more than offset the 3,600 jobs lost at the state level.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (OCT. 2002), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (AUG. AND SEPT. 2002), AND YEAR AGO (OCT. 2001)

	OCT 2002	SEP 2002	AUG 2002	OCT 2001		OCT 2002	SEP 2002	AUG 2002	OCT 2001
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	5.3	5.4	5.7	5.0	Atchison	2.2	2.5	3.3	2.4
MISSOURI	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.5	Audrain	3.6	4.3	4.5	4.3
ST. LOUIS MSA	4.8	5.0	5.3	5.0	Barton	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.0
Franklin	4.5	4.5	5.2	7.3	Bates	6.0	6.7	6.9	5.4
Jefferson	4.3	4.5	4.8	5.8	Benton	5.8	5.4	5.9	7.0
Lincoln	4.6	4.3	4.8	4.4	Caldwell	6.1	6.3	7.2	5.1
St. Charles	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.3	Carroll	4.2	4.5	5.3	3.6
St. Louis County	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.2	Cedar	4.9	4.8	5.6	3.5
Warren	4.1	3.7	4.2	4.8	Chariton	7.2	7.4	7.6	6.5
St. Louis City	8.2	8.7	9.3	8.3	Clark	4.9	5.6	5.9	7.4
KANSAS CITY MSA	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.4	Cooper	3.5	4.0	3.9	5.4
Cass	3.7	3.6	3.9	3.4	Crawford	5.3	5.4	5.6	6.6
Clay	3.7	3.7	3.8	2.8	Dade	3.8	4.3	5.3	4.1
Clinton	4.2	4.5	5.1	3.0	Dallas	6.2	6.3	7.2	6.1
Jackson	5.7	5.7	5.8	4.8	Daviess	5.1	4.7	5.1	3.9
Lafayette	4.0	4.2	4.6	3.7	DeKalb	3.7	3.8	4.6	2.9
Platte	3.8	3.9	3.9	2.7	Dent	5.5	5.5	5.6	7.1
Ray	3.7	3.9	4.5	3.3	Douglas	9.6	9.9	9.9	10.7
SPRINGFIELD MSA	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.2	Dunklin	6.2	6.0	6.4	6.1
Christian	4.4	3.9	4.3	3.0	Gasconade	4.0	4.7	4.8	6.6
Greene	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.2	Gentry	2.8	3.2	3.7	3.3
Webster	4.4	4.5	4.9	3.6	Grundy	3.7	4.0	4.2	4.4
JOPLIN MSA	4.7	4.8	5.4	4.2	Harrison	3.7	3.7	4.3	2.3
Jasper	4.3	4.6	4.8	3.6	Henry	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.1
Newton	5.5	5.3	6.5	5.3	Hickory	6.1	6.9	7.7	7.3
COLUMBIA MSA	1.8	2.0	2.1	1.7	Holt	3.2	3.5	3.9	2.9
Boone	1.8	2.0	2.1	1.7	Howard	3.5	4.0	5.1	4.5
ST. JOSEPH MSA	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.2	Iron	7.9	7.8	7.6	6.5
Andrew	4.2	3.8	4.2	4.0	Johnson	3.3	3.4	3.9	3.0
Buchanan	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.4	Knox	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	2.1	2.4	2.9	2.6	Laclede	4.8	4.7	4.9	5.2
Adair	2.0	2.3	2.7	2.7	Lewis	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.5
Schuyler	2.7	2.6	4.4	2.0	Linn	11.1	11.5	10.9	11.8
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.8	Livingston	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.1
Butler	4.7	4.6	4.6	5.2	McDonald	5.7	5.3	6.0	5.8
Carter	4.3	5.3	4.9	5.7	Macon	5.0	5.7	6.1	7.5
Ripley	6.2	5.6	6.1	7.9	Madison	6.6	7.2	7.2	8.0
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.7	Mercer	3.8	3.3	3.6	2.8
Camden	4.7	4.2	3.9	4.6	Monroe	5.3	5.5	6.2	5.9
Miller	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.9	Montgomery	4.4	4.4	4.9	5.4
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.9	Morgan	5.7	5.5	5.7	6.1
Bollinger	4.4	4.8	5.7	8.8	Nodaway	1.3	1.2	1.8	1.0
Cape Girardeau	3.2	3.3	3.6	3.5	Ozark	4.8	4.0	4.6	4.9
Mississippi	7.0	6.0	6.2	7.5	Pemiscot	9.2	9.0	8.8	8.1
New Madrid	8.7	8.8	7.6	5.7	Perry	3.1	3.1	2.9	3.3
Scott	4.7	4.9	5.3	5.1	Pettis	4.7	5.0	5.4	7.1
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	2.7	3.0	3.7	2.9	Pike	4.4	4.4	5.1	5.5
Callaway	2.8	3.1	3.7	3.1	Polk	3.8	4.2	4.4	3.5
Cole	2.3	2.5	3.2	2.4	Pulaski	3.9	4.2	4.2	5.3
Moniteau	3.6	4.1	4.4	3.3	Putnam	3.2	3.0	3.5	3.4
Osage	3.4	3.8	5.5	5.2	Randolph	4.1	4.6	6.6	4.2
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	4.4	4.6	4.8	4.6	Reynolds	7.9	8.0	8.6	8.5
Howell	4.3	4.8	5.0	4.5	St. Clair	4.8	5.1	6.0	3.8
Oregon	3.4	3.5	3.9	4.2	Ste. Genevieve	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.9
Shannon	6.0	4.8	5.0	5.7	Saline	4.5	4.8	5.9	6.3
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.2	Scotland	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.2
Barry	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.9	Shelby	3.6	4.0	4.0	6.0
Lawrence	3.9	3.9	4.5	4.5	Stoddard	5.1	5.0	5.3	5.5
MARION-RALLS LMA	4.3	4.7	5.1	4.6	Stone	5.1	5.1	5.3	4.5
Marion	4.3	4.5	4.9	4.5	Sullivan	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.7
Ralls	4.4	5.0	5.5	4.9	Taney	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.0
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.4	Texas	5.2	5.2	5.7	6.8
Maries	2.9	3.0	5.1	4.3	Vernon	4.3	4.6	5.6	2.8
Phelps	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.2	Wayne	9.2	10.0	10.3	9.3
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	6.8	7.0	7.0	8.1	Worth	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.8
St. Francois	6.5	6.7	6.8	7.4	Wright	6.8	7.8	8.8	8.2
Washington	7.7	7.7	7.4	9.7					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.

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